

The Board Talk

Published monthly by George & Donna Wilber,
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February 1996

New Shuffleboard Site: The River Inn in Williamsport, Maryland

The World of Shuffleboard welcomes The River Inn, 119 N. Conococheague St., Williamsport, Maryland, to the shuffleboard tournament scene. Glen Arvin, former owner of Glen's Tavern in Funkstown, Maryland, has teamed up with Danny Koontz to own and operate The River Inn, which is located three miles from Funkstown.

"Our new place is a lot larger," said Glen. "We have a horseshoe bar, dining room and dance hall on the first floor. The second floor is our shuffleboard room with three boards and we'll soon have four or five. We have already set tournament dates for February through May (see ad on Page 5) and will continue to host shuffleboard activity throughout the year. Our parking lot will hold 100 vehicles and the Day's Inn is just three blocks away and will give discounts to shuffleboard players and guests. We sure hope to see you soon."

For further information, call The River Inn, 301-223-7072, or Glen, 301-733-7916.

A "New Look" for Whistling Oyster, Quilcene, Washington.....

Shufflers participating in the Pacific Northwest Championships, May 10-12, and the 7th Annual Grand Masters, July 31-Aug. 4, at the Whistling Oyster Tavern in Quilcene, Washington won't have to go back to their campers or motel rooms for their favorite mixed drinks this year. Hosts Bill Bailey and Sandee VanWaggonen have secured their "class H" license and will be able to serve "vodka and tonic," etc., as well as beer and wine, to their customers (they used Webster's Dictionary to keep the "tavern" designation). Along with this plus, they are expanding their food menu to full-course meals. Already famous for their good food, this expanded menu will surely be a winner with shuffleboard crowds.

For information, call Bill or Sandee at 360-765-9508.

The Dixie Belle, Downey, California, to Host 12th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion.....

Thanks to Dixie Debbie's regular contributions to *The Board Talk*, readers across the U.S.A. and Canada have become acquainted with Wes and Eileen Eades, owners of The Dixie Belle in Downey, California, as well as the staff and shuffling regulars there. These hospitable folks have offered to be hosts of the 12th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion at their 4th Annual 4th of July Tournament on July 3-7, giving participants an opportunity to meet them in person and have a fun-filled long weekend of hot competition on the four in-house boards and much more!

Events and entry fees will be announced in the March issue. The traditional printed program, listing the winners of the previous 11 "reunions," will be part of the attractions, along with door prizes.

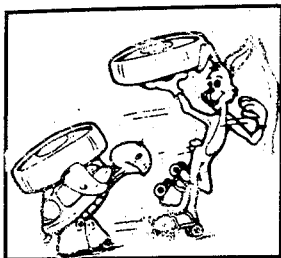
In the meantime, if you're going to be at the PCSA's Extravaganza VIII in Las Vegas, ask Eileen about further details or call her at 310-803-4943.

ON THE INSIDE.....

Looking Back to 1986 -- Who were the winners of major tournaments in 1986? What were some of the significant happenings as recorded in the two-year-old Board Talk?.....Pages 7-8

The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame -- Player feedback is finally coming in and Board Chairman Glen Davidson is optimistic about the future.....Page 9

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return -- Eddie and Lil have made it safely to Tacoma, Washington, and meet the infamous "Tacoma Tim" in, of all places, Puyallup!.....Page 18



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

A Response to Ken's "To Seed or Not to Seed"

(Editor's Note: In the December 1995 issue, Ken Strong of Houston, Texas, posed some questions regarding the viability of seeding for shuffleboard. Board Talk George drafted a response, but missed the deadline for the January issue and receives no preferential treatment. Therefore, he had to wait until February to present his views.....)

Seeding is not new to shuffleboard. It has been tried and found to be very unpopular, except by the top players. Reasons why seeding is probably not necessary in our sport:

(1) Let's use professional tennis and college NCAA basketball as parallels. These are single elimination tournaments. In fact, I don't know of a double elimination tournament that seeds, the reason being -- if two top seeds meet in the first round, chances are the loser will live to play again in the finals.

(2) As for betters/spectators, betters are going to bet, even if they must ask for points or odds, and wouldn't it be great to pack a stadium with 50,000 plus spectators before a national TV audience for shuffleboard? As we all know, our spectators are made up mostly of the players themselves.

For those not familiar with seeding, you did a great job of explaining it, Ken, and who knows, they might want to try it again in the future. I know the pros would like seeding throughout all tournaments, so maybe they should use it in their pro singles and doubles for starters.

As for your question on sponsorship sales, maybe we could seed first, have the sponsor sale, then announce the seedings.

George Wilber, Editor, The Board Talk

— ATTENTION —

If you have a red check below, it means your subscription has expired. To receive the next issue, you must renew by the 15th of this month.

_____ Red Check

(Use the form inside to renew.)

A Word from Manny About Two Hall of Fame Nominees

I would like to second Darrol Nelson's nomination for Billy Mays and Glen Davidson for the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

I played Glen several sessions and never came out ahead. One session, it seemed that whoever won the toss for the first hammer won the game. We thought about skipping shuffleboard and just flipping coins. Even at that, I came out on the short end.

The last session we had, I was down two games to one and had Glen, 14-11. This wouldn't have made the game even, but I would have come out ahead as the ante had risen considerably on the last game. My third weight was a deuce. Glen elected to gamble with a deep three. I stuck on a big four right in front of my deuce. As I was counting my money, I knew that on a combo, the best he could hope for was a three. That crazy man out-lagged my big four! I said something to the effect that this would be my last time to play him -- and it was!

I only played against Billy Mays when I had to, such as at a couple of tournaments. I don't know why anyone in their right mind would play him 20 years ago. Billy didn't win all of the tournaments in the '60s and '70s, but he always won the money. I never saw him lose a money game that counted. It is my opinion that Billy Mays is, or at least was, the greatest shuffleboard player of all time, and has contributed more to the game than anyone I know. He certainly belongs in the Hall of Fame.

Manny Lane, Pocahontas, Arkansas

Your input, Manny, as a player when Glen and Billy were in their "heydays," is very important to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors. They have been pleading for information about nominees and we salute you for your contribution, which will be sent to them prior to their next board meeting at the P.C.S.A. tournament in Las Vegas. We hope others will follow your suit. We urge other "old timers" to send their input to: The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, Secretary Louise Freer, 189 Barry Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446. If you can't write quite as eloquently as Manny, Louise offers to take your memories over the phone. Call her at 215-661-0108. Do it NOW; you have a "voice" in who will be inducted!

Ken Responds to Glen's Concerns

(Editor's Note: In the last issue, Glen Davidson asked: "What good are rules if they are not enforced?" Ken Strong of Houston, Texas, takes the time to respond to his concerns.)

Rules/Officials: No question. I am in total agreement with Glen on this one. Rules need to be posted (a big display is preferred) and adhered to for each tournament; tournament officials/referees should also be posted. As for officials/tournament directors, I guess I haven't run across the problems that Glen mentions, but I do believe that some of the officials for a given tournament need to be selected from the players and represent the various factions of the players. Hell, the tournament director has enough to do to keep the tournament running smoothly, but if the director wants to play, as most directors do, then he/she must accept the rules and the official's decisions the same as the rest of the players.

Weights: This is a tough one, but I tend to agree with Glen. It seems to me that a player who can make it across the country for a prominent tournament ought to be able to afford his/her own set of legal weights. I also believe that good-quality, consistent house weights should be provided for tournament play for those players not having their own weights.

Boards: We all know it takes a lot of work to set boards up for a tournament, but invariably it seems like in every tournament there is one really bad board that cannot be made acceptable for play. Players quickly learn which board it is and no one wants to play on it. And I agree with Glen that this type of board should be taken out of the tournament. The old adage that everyone has to play the board is not necessarily true. A player could go through the entire tournament and never draw the board. To win on a really bad board generally requires pure luck -- not skill. I also believe that the temporary boards brought in for a tournament that simply "settle in" unevenly during the tournament should be tweaked before play begins that day.

Brackets: There should be no reason for violating brackets. Brackets, both winner's and loser's sides, are well defined. For a given event, when the number of teams is known and **before sponsorship sales**, bracket numbering and board numbering are defined on the brackets. For a non-seeded tournament and **after sponsorship sales**, teams blind draw numbers for position on the pre-numbered brackets. Simple. Rules such as no back-to-back games on the same board and/or play first-available board require posting in the rules, i.e., up front.

Dusting the boards: Glen did not mention this one, but there are rules on dusting the board during a game and I see these rules being flagrantly violated in nearly every tournament that I have participated in or witnessed.

I thought that **lightly** dusting the rails up to the near foul line or **lightly** dusting obvious dry spots was the accepted rule. The object is to keep the board shooting as consistently as possible throughout the game. But I see players "drowning" the entire ends of the board, which obviously changes the speed of the board. This is tantamount to taking a wrench and lowering the ends during the game, i.e., tampering with the board. I believe there is a rule on players not being able to tamper with the boards.

Ken Strong, Houston, Texas

Once again, Ken Strong has provided readers with an opportunity to respond to current concerns within the sport of table shuffleboard. Send your reactions to The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. To be published in the next issue, your responses must be received by Feb. 15.

Lafayette Inn Launches '96 Season

The Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland, launched their '96 shuffleboard season on Jan. 6. Eastern Shore players, along with those from Pennsylvania and our locals, braved the pending snowstorm to play.

Winners of the first tournament were: Dave Shrewbridge and Jim McDaniels, both of Maryland, 1st; Connie King, Maryland, and Mike Kennedy, Pennsylvania, 2nd; Mary Ann Watson, Pennsylvania, and Joyce Pyle, Maryland, 3rd.

Winners of the second tournament were Mike Renzo and Dave Shrewbridge, Md., 1st; Nelson Renso, Md., and Mary Ann Watson, Pa., 2nd; and Cody Miller and Connie King, Md., 3rd.

The Lafayette Inn has two boards in the main bar room, where everything is convenient and games roll on time and fairly quickly. We invite anyone to come on up, down, across, or whichever direction you come from, to join us for a great time, every Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., entry fee \$10 per person.

Let's keep the spirit alive!

Brenda Wallace, Port Deposit, Maryland

You might suggest to Renzo that he once again join the national shuffleboard network (see enclosed "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing).

Did You Know?

On the first Calendar of Events published in February 1986, there were six tournaments listed in six different states. On the current Calendar, there are 43 events in 11 states and Canada!

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Florida

3RD ANNUAL FLORIDA OPEN, FEB. 16-18, HUDDLES SPORTS CAFE, PEMBROKE PINES

Huddle's Sports Cafe, 7100 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines, will once again host the 3rd Annual Florida Open Shuffleboard Tournament on Feb. 16-18. Featured events will include a bring partner on Saturday, \$50 per team entry, single game, double elimination, and a singles on Sunday, \$50 per player entry, single game, double elimination. Open boards and draw partner jackpots on Friday. Sponsor sales prior to each event or Friday night, 9 p.m. and Saturday night, 9 p.m.

For further information, contact committeeman Marty Allen, 407-471-4053, or host Charlie Fisher, 305-985-8382.

Washington

SWEETHEART MIXED DOUBLES, BLUE GOOSE, PORT ORCHARD, FEB. 17-18

The Blue Goose Tavern, 1931 Bay St., Port

Orchard, will host their annual Sweetheart Mixed Doubles Tournament on Feb. 17-18. Entry fee is \$40, with six payouts: 52-24-12-6-3-3. Sponsor sale will start at noon on the 17th.

Last year's winners were Jim and Michelle Foran.

For further information, contact tournament directors Larry Hudson or Gene Brown at the Blue Goose, 360-895-8171.

\$500 ADDED TO SHAMROCK'S DRAW PARTNER, MAY 4-5

The Shamrock Tavern, 1131 15th, Longview, will host its 6th Annual Draw Partners on May 4-5. Entry fee is \$20 per player and the Shamrock will add \$500 to the pot. Sponsor sale is scheduled for noon on May 4, with play immediately following.

There will be a \$10 round robin on Friday night, May 3, starting at 7 p.m.

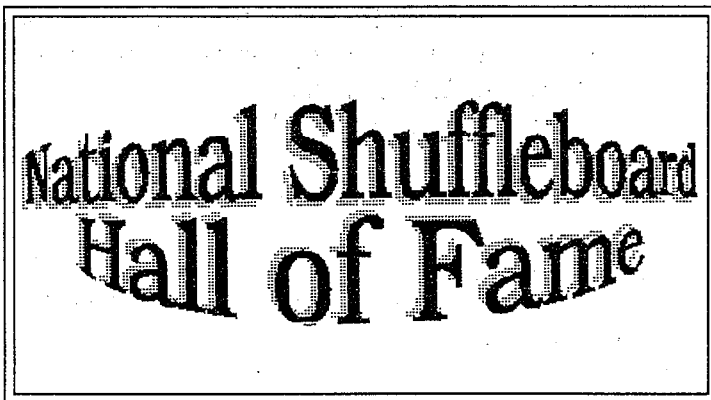
Bernice's famous chili or taco soup will once again be a popular feature of this fun week-end.

For information, call the Shamrock, 360-577-7444.

Last year's winners of this tournament were Gary George and Fred Linton.

Check the calendar of events for other upcoming tournaments at the Shamrock.

1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament 35th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles MAY 4, 1996



The longest-running annual event in the U.S.A. is proud to host the 1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament!

**\$1,000 added to tournament pot
\$1,000 donated to Hall of Fame**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 424

202 S. Main St., Bourbon, Indiana

For information, call Fritzi Broka, 219-858-2689

11TH ANNUAL MIXED DOUBLES, OLD EDISON INN, MARCH 9-10, EDISON

The 11th Annual Mixed Doubles Tournament at the Old Edison Inn, Edison, is slated for March 9-10. Entry is \$50 per team for the double elimination event, with play beginning immediately following the 11 a.m. Saturday sponsor sale.

Hosts Mini and Sandy will add money proportionate to the number of shooters, provide a complimentary feed on Saturday, and probably team up to challenge in the event.

Director Phil DePree advises that some RV parking is available (no hookups). For suggested lodging in nearby Burlington or Mount Vernon, or other information, call Phil at the Edison, 360-766-6266 or 766-5301.

Last year's winners were John Martin and Joanie (Crazy Irish) Millar.

*Glen Arvin and Danny Koontz,
owner-operators of the new*

RIVER INN

119 N. Conococheague St.

Williamsport, Maryland

Phone: 301-223-7072

*invite you to participate in these
upcoming three-event tournaments:*

●FEB. 16-18

●MARCH 15-17

●APRIL 19-21

●MAY 17-19

3 or more boards!

Horseshoe bar, dining room,

dance hall, shuffleboard

room, lots of parking!

*Try the East Coast's
Newest Shuffleboard Site*

-- you'll like it!

(More information on Page 1)

Indiana

4TH IN SERIES OF 5 AT BEEF'S IN KENDALLVILLE, FEB. 17

No. 4 in the "Series of 5" at Beef's, 550 S. Main, Kendallville, will be held on Feb. 17. Entry fee for the open doubles is \$40 per team, with sponsor sale at 11 a.m.

First-place finishers in each of the series receive winners' jackets, courtesy of Beef, and participants in each have a chance to win a set of weights, courtesy of Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies. Top point earners will take a share of \$2,000 added money courtesy of Playfair, Inc., and Dale Gushman.

Recommended lodging in Kendallville are:

Economy Inn, 219-347-3500, or Days Inn, 219-347-5263. For further information, call Beef or Marge at 219-347-9965. The fifth in the Series of 5 is on March 23. Beef's will also host an open singles on April 27.

DOUBLES, SPORTSMAN'S, MUNCIE, FEB. 24

The Sportsman's Lounge, 1806 Memorial Drive, Muncie, will host an open doubles on Feb. 24. Entry fee is \$30 per team and sponsor sale for this double elimination event is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

For further information, call the Sportsman's Lounge, 317-289-0701. \$100 added to the pot.

MISSISSINEWA TO HOST OPEN DOUBLES ON APRIL 13

The Mississinewa Tavern, 125 W. Harris, in Eaton, Indiana, will host a doubles tournament, \$20 per team entry, on April 13. The double elimination event, played on two boards, is limited to the first 24 teams signed up. The sponsor sale is scheduled for 11 a.m., with play immediately following. Payoff is 60-30-10.

Watch for a flyer in the next issue. In the meantime, contact Arnold Cross, 317-396-9371.

Maryland

FIRST 3-EVENT TOURNEY, RIVER INN, WILLIAMSPORT, FEB. 16-18

The first in a series of monthly three-event tournaments at the new River Inn, Williamsport, will be held on Feb. 16-18. Action will start on Friday night with a draw

(continued on Page 11)

As the Puck Turns....

By George & Donna Wilber

Bellflower Bruce, one of our sport's greatest ambassadors and generous supporters, has shown his compassion to others in The World of Shuffleboard many times in the past. Now, he could use a shot of that compassion himself. Bruce is currently undergoing cancer treatments and is confident of his full recovery. You can help him speed that recovery by letting him know he's in your thoughts and prayers. Drop him a note today: Bruce Hale, 3194-B Airport Loop Dr., Costa Mesa CA 92626.

He plans to be at the PCSA's Extravaganza VIII and we encourage participants to take that opportunity to wish him well. Nobody deserves it more than this "class" gentleman!

We received an inquiry from one of our readers which, frankly, we cannot answer. He asked: (1) How many players of shuffleboard live in the United States? (2) How many live in the world? and (3) How much money is involved? We told him that if we could find the answer to those questions, we'd certainly "track them down" and sign them up as subscribers. Does anyone out there have a clue to how we find out this information?

A place to start might be the sport's servicers/suppliers. If each of those would supply us with a list of their customers, we might take a giant step toward answering those questions. We'll even post a reward: \$5 for every new subscriber gained from those lists, to be paid in cash or advertising space.

Long-time Michigan shuffler, Cass Grubbs, who is now promoting board action in Florida, was the bearer of some tragic news to share with readers. Catherine Tripps, who plays in all Florida shuffleboard events, lost her 32-year old daughter during a senseless act of violence the day after Christmas. Gail Jones, mother of two, was shot during a robbery attempt while visiting relatives in a small town in Georgia. She died on the way to the hospital. Catherine plans to keep the children, a 13-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl, with her to finish the school year in Mims, Florida. There was no insurance, so the community responded, to some extent, to cover Gail's funeral expenses. If you can help, either with a financial

contribution or just a note to let Catherine know you're thinking of her during this time of great sorrow, send to: Catherine Tripp, 3501 Kettles St., Mims, FL 32754.

The quarterly "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing is in this issue and we ask establishment owners to check to see if their addresses and phone numbers are correct. Please let us know of any discrepancies so we can make corrections for the May listing. Along with travelling shufflers, we use the list as well. In an attempt to find out details about an upcoming tournament in Indiana, we woke up some poor soul from a sound sleep twice! After calling Information, we found there was one wrong digit in the tournament host establishment's listed phone number. Makes us wonder how many other times he's been awakened!

It's always a disappointment to us, when we update the listing every quarter, to have to delete shuffleboard sites which have ignored their red checks alerting them that their subscriptions have expired. It isn't until their local shufflers ask: "How come you're not on the 'Play Your Way' list anymore?" that we receive a renewal check. That's bewildering because any travelling shuffler who stops in because they saw their name on the list will likely spend more than the \$15 annual subscription fee.

A Washington subscriber gave us a clue: "Could you please send me a bill when my subscription comes due? It seems somebody takes off with my Board Talk and I can't remember when it's due." That likely happens in a lot of cases and we will start sending invoices to subscriber shuffleboard locations. There are 33 locations on the enclosed listing whose subscriptions have expired. We're giving them the benefit of a doubt and leaving them on, and will be sending invoices. We'll see how many choose to be on the "map" in May.

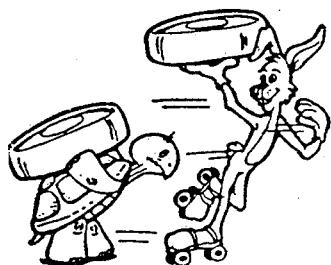
After hope waned for our chances of attending the P.C.S.A.'s Extravaganza VIII, we'd pretty well reconciled ourselves to the fact that we'd have to miss the first one in several years. But, "hope springs eternal" and we'll be there! Please, if you're going to be there, too, come up and introduce (or re-introduce) yourselves. We love to connect a name on our mailing list with a face!

We're pleased to announce that The Dixie Belle in Downey, California, will host our 12th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion at their 4th Annual 4th of July Tournament (see Page 1). Both this event and the Southwest Open in Oklahoma have already established themselves as popular hosts and we're confident that The World of Shuffleboard has grown to the point that each will be a big success!

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

Looking Back.....

1986



Editor's Note: To mark our 12 years of publication, we started this new column in December, highlighting the winners of past major tournaments. These lists will include only those that were reported to THE BOARD TALK; consequently, there may have been some major events that are not recorded. This month.....1986.

●Corporate Image, Ft. Worth, Texas, Washington's Birthday

Doubles:

- 1st -- Billy Mays, Earl Kelly, Texas
- 2nd -- Darrol Nelson, Doug Buhl, Oregon
- 3rd -- Karl Spickelmier, Leroy Ledford, California

Singles:

- 1st -- Billy Mays, Texas
- 2nd -- Earl Kelly, Texas
- 3rd -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon

●Black Cat, Portland, Oregon, April 11-13, Round Robin Doubles:

- 1st -- John McDermott, Michigan; Galen Gaunce, Oregon
- 2nd -- Chuck Norris, Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 3rd -- Mac Makarounis, Charlie Gates, Oregon

●P.T.'s Shuffleboard Alley, Houston, Texas, Memorial Weekend

Women's Singles:

- 1st -- Diana Hagen, Texas
- 2nd -- Lilly Kidd, Texas
- 3rd -- Sharon Finch, Texas

Draw Partners:

- 1st -- Harvey Walden, Tennessee; Rick Boyer, Texas
- 2nd -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma; Dale Koteris, Texas
- 3rd -- Danny Hersom, Ken Garrett, Texas

Doubles:

- 1st -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma; Dave Williams, Texas
- 2nd -- Sam Summers, Ed Graves, Oklahoma
- 3rd -- Rick Boyer, Texas; George Ostrum, Colorado

●Ace of Clubs, Marysville, California, Memorial Day

Doubles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Or., John McDermott, Mich.
- 2nd -- Fred Thuman, Don Cox, California
- 3rd -- Jerry Miller, Leon Benton, California

Singles:

- 1st -- Eric Waldman, California
- 2nd -- Billy Chiles, California
- 3rd -- John McDermott, Michigan

●Ted Z's Best Little Wherehouse, Temecula, California, 4th of July

Doubles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Or.; Glen Davidson, Okla.
- 2nd -- Ted Z, Karl Spickelmier, California
- 3rd -- Joe Muniz, Calif.; John McDermott, Mich.

Singles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 2nd -- Karl Spickelmier, California
- 3rd -- Glen Davidson, Oklahoma

●U.S. Open, Austin, Texas, Aug. 6-10

Singles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 2nd -- Howard Mouton, Texas
- 3rd -- John McDermott, Michigan
- 4th -- Glen Davidson, Oklahoma

Doubles:

- 1st -- Glen Davidson, Okla.; Rick Boyer, Texas
- 2nd -- Bill Melton, Okla.; Dave Williams, Texas
- 3rd -- Bob White, Earl Kelly, Texas
- 4th -- Darrol Nelson, Or.; John McDermott, Mich.

Ladies' Singles:

- 1st -- Diana Hagen, Texas
- 2nd -- Evelyn Harris, Texas
- 3rd -- Velma Covington, Texas

●Colorado Open, Bliner's Sports Bar, Denver, Colorado, Nov. 6-9

Draw Partners:

- 1st -- Sam Summers, Okla.; John Myles, Michigan
- 2nd -- Diana Hagen, Texas; George Ostrum, Colo.
- 3rd -- Grady McGovern, Colo.; John Tischler, Michigan

Doubles:

- 1st -- Howard Mouton, Rick Boyer, Texas
- 2nd -- Dave Williams, Texas; Bill Melton, Okla.
- 3rd -- Lee Brady, Billy Mays, Texas

Singles:

- 1st -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma
- 2nd -- Billy Mays, Texas
- 3rd -- John McDermott, Michigan

(continued on Page 8)

NEXT MONTH: Who were the "headliners" in 1987? Will YOUR name be there?

Looking Back to 1986 (cont. from Page 7)

● **Stagger Inn, Bellflower, California, Thanksgiving**

Doubles:

1st -- John McDermott, Michigan; Leroy Ledford, California

2nd -- Billy Chiles, Ted Z, California

3rd -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma; Eric Waldman, California

Singles:

1st -- Billy Chiles, California

2nd -- Joe Muniz, California

3rd -- Leroy Ledford, California

Other Significant Happenings in 1986:

February -- Two new features are added to *The Board Talk*: the quarterly "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing of shuffleboard establishments which are subscribers, and the monthly Shuffleboard Tournament Calendar. There are 37 sites in 13 states on this first "map" and six events on the calendar. **Bellflower Bruce** of California becomes a part of the Shuffleboard Directory and remains so today.

March -- In a special feature, **Jim Yank** of Pennsylvania shared his views about the responsibility of established players teaching novices: "The game of shuffleboard needs people to teach newcomers how to shoot and practice properly. If the game is to expand we, as A and B shooters, have to take the time and patience to teach others the basic rules of the game." **Glen Davidson** of Oklahoma calls on players to "get organized" and further the cause of shuffleboard: "It's time we all start getting back something we have put into shuffleboard for the past 20 to 30 years. Now is the time to ask or demand our fair share of the profits!" **Ted Z** announces that his new tavern, The Best Little Warehouse in Temecula, Calif., has two boards and invites "traveling hustlers" to visit.

May -- Increased advertising and subscribers have given a new lease on life to *The Board Talk*. The Calendar has grown to 10 upcoming events; the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing has grown to 49 sites in 16 states. Editors George and Donna look ahead with optimism: "In 1996, we'll mount a *Board Talk* banner on each side of a mobile home and hit the road, traveling from one tourney to the next, recording the historical moments in The World of Shuffleboard."

July -- **P.T.**, owner of P.T.'s Shuffleboard Alley in Houston, Texas, receives praise for being the first tournament host to pay for out-of-town players' lodging.

September -- Michigan's **John McDermott** salutes Oklahoma's **Bill Melton** as "a man who puts back into the game much more than he takes out. In addition to being a champion of the game he loves, he also works tirelessly for the advancement of the sport."

October -- In a special feature, **Rita Yank** of Pennsylvania says it's time for male shooters to realize that shuffleboard is for both sexes: "When a female shoots a male....he becomes amazed that she can shoot, shocked that she knows the game, embarrassed when she beats him and mad because it was done by a woman." Board Talk George starts ranking the Top 20 players in the USA, reflecting the "limited information and observations of the editors." The top 10 of the 20 (in order) were: **Darrol Nelson**, Oregon; **Billy Mays**, Texas; **Doug Buhl**, California; **John McDermott**, Michigan; **Bill Melton**, Oklahoma; **Glen Davidson**, Oklahoma; **Mickey Mickens**, New Jersey; **Lee McDonald**, Michigan; **Ed Graves**, Oklahoma; and **Dave Williams**, Texas.

November -- The "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing has grown to 81 sites in 17 states -- and Canada! The Top 20 list has shifted dramatically, based on tournament finishes and reader input: **Billy Mays** in first, followed by **John McDermott** in second and **Darrol Nelson** in third, **Glen Davidson** of Oklahoma in fourth, **Bill Melton** in fifth, **Howard Mouton** of Texas and **Earl Kelly** of Texas in sixth and seventh, **Ed Graves** in eighth, **J.R. Lopez** of Michigan in ninth; and **Dave Williams** still in tenth. For the first time, a woman shows up on the list, **Diana Hagen** of Texas in No. 18. The Top 10 subscription states are (in order): Texas, California, Michigan, Indiana, Oregon, Oklahoma, Arizona, Delaware, Missouri and Maryland (*Editors' Note: compare that with the back panel of this 1996 issue*).

December -- The Top 20 remains pretty stable, except for a couple of players who have worked their way into the top half -- **Rick Boyer** of Texas in third and **Sam Summers** of Oklahoma in 7th. A "kid" from Indiana, **Bobby Voorhis**, has made his way to No. 11 and **Diana Hagen** is now No. 17. As the year ends, George's picks are being challenged -- as he had hoped would happen.

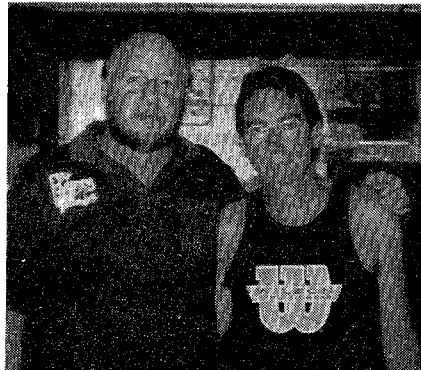
Did You Know?

Three Canadian shufflers -- Mike Jacoby, Harvey Groleau, and John Komadaski -- travelled 1500 miles (one-way) to attend the 2nd Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion at the Log Cabin, Howell, Michigan, over the July 4th weekend.

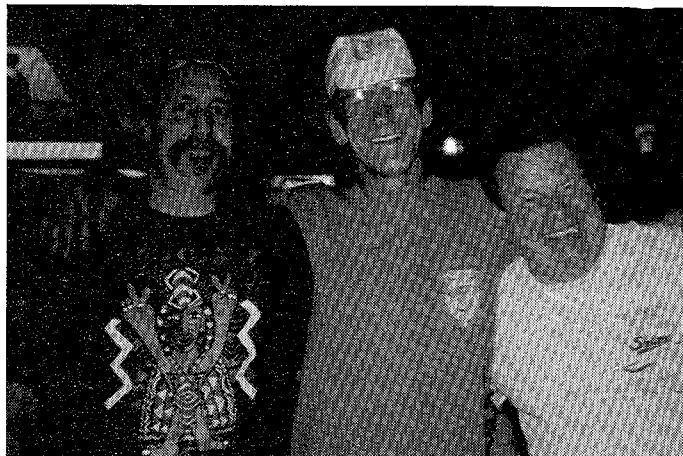
Mike and Harvey, even though they were accustomed to playing on 14-foot boards, finished 3rd in the Open Doubles.

Darrol and Sparky Win at Tim's 2nd Annual Open in Kelso, Washington

Tim's Timber Tavern in Kelso, Washington, hosted its 2nd Annual Open Doubles Tournament with 14 teams participating.

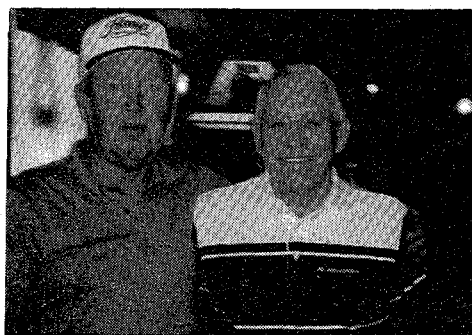


Sparky Sparkman (left) and Darrol Nelson of Oregon teamed up to take top honors.



John Martin (right) congratulates second-place finishers Loren Lampley and Don (Mitch) Mitchell.

Locals Tom Henry and Ed Foytack took third place in the open doubles.



Host Tim and tournament director Kevin Larkin thank all participants for supporting this annual event.

***Share your news with
The World of Shuffleboard
in The Board Talk!
Deadline: 15th of each month***

National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

I'm glad to see the feedback we're receiving now from the players. In the next issue of *The Board Talk*, I'll inform you all of what we agreed to at the board meeting held during the P.C.S.A. Extravaganza VIII in Las Vegas.

The issues we will discuss are those that you, as players, have written to us or put in *The Board Talk*. Keep up with the progress we are beginning to make. Without you keeping an interest, we will fail -- and failure is not acceptable at this point. Keep on sending in your input.

I would like to say thanks to World's Champion Singles player, Darrol Nelson, for his suggestions and comments. I like the 60-year-old induction suggestion (see January issue). We will talk on that issue at the meeting.

Remember, to get anyone inducted -- 60, 50, 80 or 70 years of age -- you must send in his/her resume. Approach this as if you were applying for a job. Put everything you know to be true in it and send in your induction recommendations. "Make it simple" is our motto.

As far as having rules and regulations at the state level for Hall of Fame Committees, remember three things: (1) identify who you want to see inducted into the Hall of Fame; (2) vote on it; (3) get their resumes together and send them in. Make it simple!

I see Cliff Goff and his crew in Tulsa are working together to get their people in that area in. Also, the gang in Philadelphia, Maryland and Delaware -- nice going; keep it going!

Glen Davidson, Chairman, National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors

Your editors continue to encourage readers to continue your contributions to making the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame a reality. Send your nominations, ideas, and financial contributions to: Louise Freer, Secretary, National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, 189 Barry Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446. And, shuffleboard support services and players, don't forget to support the 1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament in Bourbon, Indiana, on May 4, with prizes, cash, and participation. Call Fritz Broka, 219-858-2689, and pledge your support to this worthy cause.

Upcoming Events *(continued from Page 5)*

partner, \$10 per person. Entry fee for Saturday's bring partner is \$25 per team, with a singles on Sunday, \$25 entry.

Welcome this new shuffleboard site to the tournament scene with your participation.

For further information, call Glen or Danny, 301-223-7072.

California

PRESIDENTS' DAY TOURNEY AT BLINKY'S, FEB. 17-19

Blinky's, 3145 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, will host their 6th Annual Presidents' Day Tournament on Feb. 17-19. Events include a doubles on Saturday, 10 a.m., \$75 per person entry, and a singles on Sunday, 10 a.m., \$75 entry. Sponsor sales for both events are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. All games, played on four AZ boards, will be 2 out of 3, double elimination. Blinky's offers ample parking and good food and there is lodging nearby.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site. For further information, call Rick Thomas, 408-578-0822, or A.Z. Turnbo, 408-683-4513.

Oklahoma

JIMMY L'S SPRING TOURNAMENT, TULSA, MARCH 15-17

Jimmy L's, 9520 E. 11th, Tulsa, will host a Spring Tournament on March 15-17, with some special attractions -- brown beans and cornbread served on Friday, food brought in on Saturday, and two sets of Triple Crown weights as door prizes!

Action will start on Friday evening with an open draw, \$50 per person entry, with drawing at 6:30 p.m. and sponsor sale at 7 p.m. Single game, double elimination and no pros and 0's can draw each other. The drawing and sponsor sale for the pro-am bring partner event will be held on Saturday immediately following the open draw finals. Entry is \$100 per person, best 2 out of 3, double elimination, with no pros and 0's teaming up.

A \$10 registration fee, covering both events, will be charged. The Bowers handicap system will be used and play will be on Jimmy's four in-house boards. Motel accommodations are located near the tournament site.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site. For further information, call Jimmy L's, 918-834-7544, or Cliff Goff, 918-664-9573.

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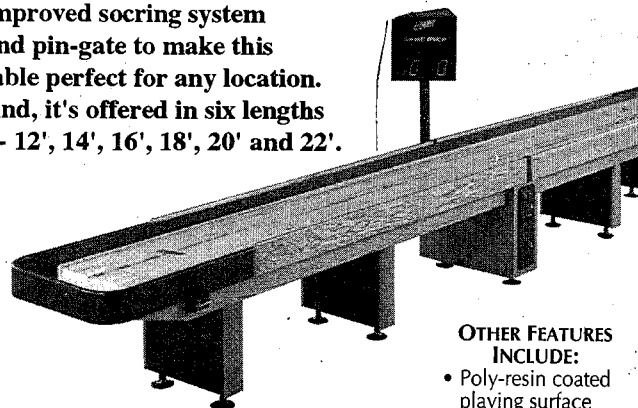
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--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

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1996 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Jan. 30-Feb. 4

PCSA Extravaganza VIII
Aladdin Hotel/Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Feb. 16-18

3rd Annual Florida Open
Huddle's Sports Cafe
Pembroke Pines, Florida

Feb. 16-18

3-Event Tournament
The River Inn
Williamsport, Maryland

Feb. 17

4th in Series of Five
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

Feb. 17-18

Sweethearts Tournament
Blue Goose
Port Orchard, Washington

Feb. 17-19

6th Annual Presidents' Day
Tournament
Blinky's Sports Cafe
Santa Clara, California

Feb. 23

Open Singles, A-B Draw
The Gold Nugget
Arlington, Texas

Feb. 24

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

MARCH

March 2-4

3-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

March 9-10

11th Annual Mixed Doubles
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

March 15-17

3-Event Tournament
The River Inn
Williamsport, Maryland

March 15-17

2nd Annual St. Pat's Day Tourney
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

March 15-17

Jimmy L's Spring Tournament
Jimmy L's
Tulsa, Oklahoma

March 23

5th in Series of Five
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

APRIL

April 5-7

3-Event Tournament
Avon Local 14
Toledo, Ohio

April 11-14

National Spring Tournament
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

April 12-14

3-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

April 13

Doubles Tournament
Mississinewa Tavern
Eaton, Indiana

April 19-21

3-Event Tournament
The River Inn
Williamsport, Maryland

April 19-21

1st Annual Mixed, Men's &
Ladies' Singles
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

April 27

Open Singles
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

MAY

May 4

1st Hall of Fame Doubles
American Legion 424
Bourbon, Indiana

May 4-5

6th Annual Draw Partner
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

May 10-12

Pacific Northwest Championships
Whistling Oyster Tavern
Quilcene, Washington

May 11

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

May 17-19

3-Event Tournament
The River Inn
Williamsport, Maryland

May 20-27

Memorial Day Tournament
Blinky's Sports Cafe
Santa Clara, California

THE BOARD TALK

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1996 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

May 24-27

3rd Annual Memorial Day
Tourney
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

JUNE

June 14-16

2nd Annual Deuces Wild
4-Person Team Event
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

June 21-23

New York State Championships
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

JULY

July 2-7

Southwest Open
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

July 3-7

4th Annual 4th of July Tourney/
12th Annual Board Talk
Shufflers' Reunion
The Dixie Belle
Downey, California

AUGUST

July 31-Aug. 4

7th Annual Grand Masters
Whistling Oyster Tavern
Quilcene, Washington

Aug. 2-4

Summer National Tournament
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

Aug. 23-25

2nd Annual 6-Person Team
Event
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Aug. 25 - Sept. 2

Labor Day Tournament
Blinky's Sports Cafe
Santa Clara, California

Aug. 30-Sept. 1

6th Annual Crazy Canucks
Labor Day Tournament
AN & AF #68
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5-8

6th Annual Skip's/Board Talk
Fall Bash
Skip's Lounge
Houghton Lake, Michigan

Sept. 20-22

2nd Annual ABC Draw
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

OCTOBER

Oct. 11-13

2nd Annual Ladies' Weekend
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Oct. 19-20

Bring Your Partner Buhl and
Nelson Tournament
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

Oct. 28-Nov. 3

7th Annual North American
Championships
Sands Regency Hotel Casino
Reno, Nevada

NOVEMBER

Nov. 30-Dec. 1

Over 55 Tournament
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

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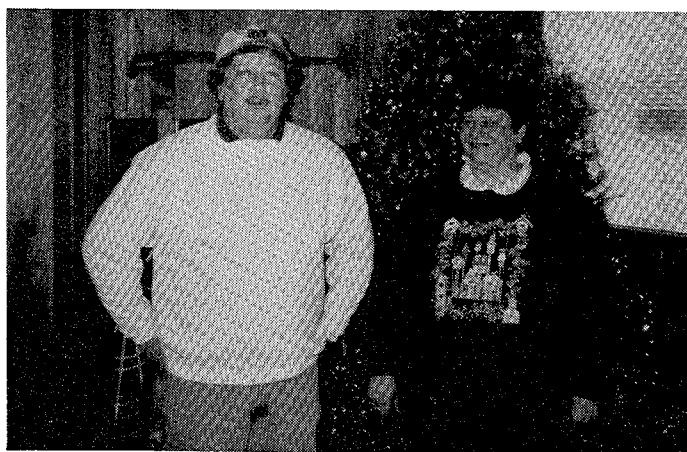
DeBois/Olson Winners of Tim's Mixed Doubles, Kelso, Washington

For the second year in a row, Doug DeBois and Tina Olson took first place at Tim's Timber Tavern's mixed doubles in Kelso, Washington.



It looks like Doug DeBois has a star in his crown, but it's really a Christmas tree topper! He and Tina Olson were winners of the 3rd Annual Mixed Doubles at Tim's Timber Tavern.

Taking second place honors were Curt Grathen and Norma DeBois.



Tim Bonner and Maradee Thomas finished in third place.

Participation in this fun tournament increased by three teams this year.

Massies Tops at Town Tavern

Tom and Greg Massie came out ahead of a 14-team field of contenders in a doubles tournament at the Town Tavern, Summitville, Indiana, on Dec. 16. Steve Hart and Terry Dowell finished in second place, with Larry

Creakbaum and Jim Long in third place. There was \$2150 in the pot.

Gold Nugget Hosts Open Singles and A-B Draw

The Gold Nugget in Arlington, Texas, held an open singles (graduated entry) and an A-B draw recently. Over 30 entrants competed for a purse of over \$5,000.

The top four finishers in the singles were David Williams, Bobby Williams, Bill Melton and Billy Mays.

In the A-B draw, Betty Baumgardner and Bobby Williams took first place after a closely-fought shootout with second-place finishers Bill Melton and Cindy Yarbrough. Third place went to Harold Carter and Whiz Nichols.

"Ray Hornbuckle provided deep fried turkey and fixings for a wonderful treat," said Bobby Williams. "Thanks to to Jack Davis, Johnny Wayne and Joy Huitt for help in running the two events."

The Gold Nugget will host a handicap open singles and A-B draw on Feb. 23. For information, call the Gold Nugget, 817-277-4029.

Roush/Pearson Take First at Edison Inn's 5th Annual Draw Partner

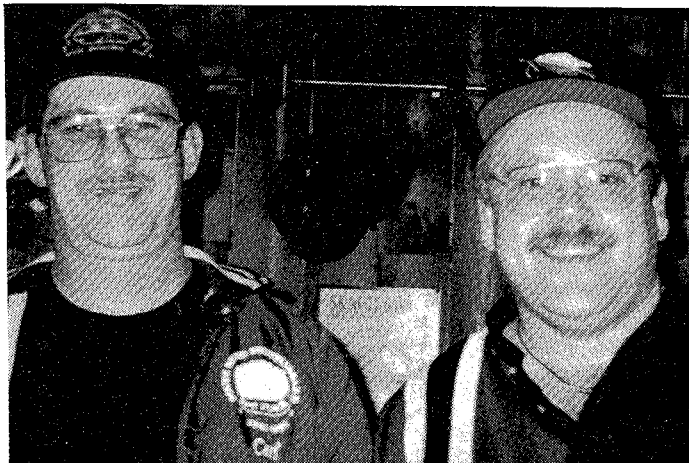
The 5th Annual Draw Partner event at the Old Edison Inn, Edison, Washington, Dec. 16-17, attracted a smaller-than-usual turnout, but a very deep one in terms of talent. Several weeks of flooding and high winds in the state no doubt contributed to the light turnout, but the players who were able to make their way to tiny Edison were rewarded with a fun weekend and good competition, as every team drawn had at least one player who had been a winner in a tournament in the area in recent years.

Finishing at the top of the heap were two of the rising young players in the region, Carl Roush of Shelton, and Larry Pearson of Snohomish. They beat out the veteran team of Mike Waters, Tahuya, and Paul Major, Brier, in a hard-fought, two-match finals, while the local team of Sherm Anderson and Phil DePree settled for third after going undefeated in games on Saturday.

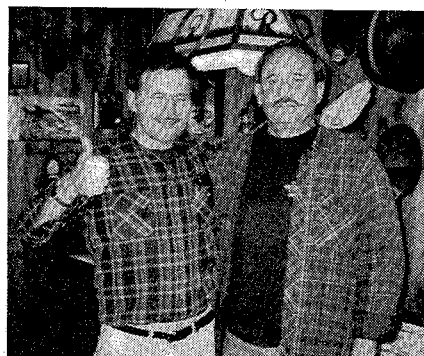
Fourth place went to Russ Miller and Bobby Thompson, Bow area shooters. Larry Sawyer and Norm McVigh, Jim Manders and Mark Sullivan, tied for fifth in this 11-team field of contenders.

Next on the Edison Inn agenda is the 11th Annual Mixed Doubles on March 9-10 (see Upcoming Events). Also watch for a 55-and-over event sometime this summer.

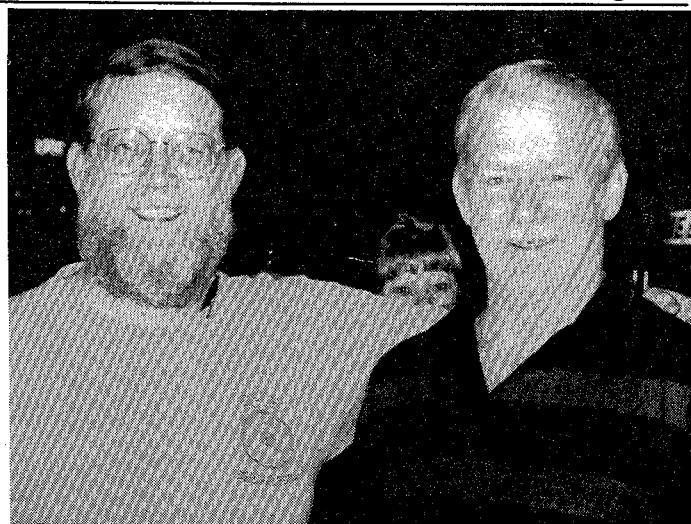
(continued on Page 16)

Edison Draw Partner (cont. from Page 15)

Carl Roush (left) and Larry Pearson were winners of the 5th Annual Draw Partner at Old Edison Inn.



Paul Major (left) and Mike Waters took second-place honors.



Phil DePree (left) and Sherm Anderson settled for third.

CORRECTION.....

In the December 1995 issue, it was reported that Darrol Nelson and Fred Thumann won the Pro Draw event at The Shuffleboard Federation's North American Championships in Reno, Nevada. It was Rick Boyer and Bob Shaw who won that tournament, with Darrol and Fred in second place.

Sincere apologies to the winners! For those of you who are keeping a "scorecard," you should make this correction.



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Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, Frisco Eddie and Lil were giving thanks for escaping a brush with death when the Boeing 727 on which they were flying developed engine problems just before they were to land at the Sea/Tac Airport in Seattle, Washington. They were headed to stay with one of Lil's friends, "Tacoma Tim.")

Lil's and Eddie's excitement levels were still very high from the emergency landing ordeal. As they were leaving the car rental lot, with Lil at the wheel, Eddie asked her where they were going. Lil said: "We're headed for a little town on the outskirts of Tacoma. It's called Puyallup." Eddie remarked: "What a name -- Ha!" Lil replied: "Most of the towns in this part of the world have American Indian names, and the streets are numbered kind of different, too -- like '45th Street SW.' It's a pretty good system, I guess, once you get used to it."

Lil turned off the main route then and said: "I don't think I told you that I had a younger brother. His name is Jon. Anyway, he graduated from a college that's located a few blocks from here. I thought we'd take a quick drive-by look at it, as long as we're this close." In a minute or two, she said: "It's coming up now."

As Lil made a right turn, Eddie saw a magnificent campus in front of them. The archway said "Pacific Lutheran University." Its ivory-covered buildings were beautiful. Lil remarked: "It's nice, isn't it? I was here years ago for his graduation." In a few minutes, they had worked their way back onto the main avenue.

As they got close to the outskirts of Tacoma, the scenery started to change. The highway narrowed then. The air was clean and crisp, and the huge green fir trees that lined the road were quite a sight. It was good that they had auto-speed windshield wipers because there was a constant drizzly mist in the air.

In about 15 minutes, Lil turned off onto a back road and after a short while said: "O.K., Champ, we're here." They turned into a winding driveway and parked in front of "Tacoma Tim's" house. It was a large Northwest style wooden bungalow. Eddie could see smoke coming from its chimney.

The front door opened as they approached to reveal an elderly man of about six feet in height. His eyes were bright and he had a big smile on his strong-looking bearded face. He extended his arms and said: "There you are! Let's give me a hug now." After a happy exchange of words and hugs, Lil introduced Eddie. Tim said: "So you're the upcoming young shooter. Welcome to my home! We all have a lot to talk about."

After they entered, Tim told them: "Now you two take a seat in the den here and I'm going to fix you both a

good stiff drink. After what you've been through, I'm certain you need it!" As he was getting their drinks, Eddie looked around a little. It was quite a nice place. The house they were in was all top-grade wood construction, with thick carpeting throughout. The room they were in had a nice-looking wet bar and the walls held displays of various deer and elk heads, along with some huge "steel-head" salmon and other large fish. It was obvious that this "Tacoma Tim" was a man of the outdoors.

After they had settled in with their 12-year-old scotches in hand, Tim asked Lil: "Now, update me on what you've been up to these last years, and what your plans are." Lil finished telling about the plane emergency and all, then gave Tim a full account of what events took place from past years, and since she first met Eddie.

Eddie more or less just sat there and took it all in. There was a lot of laughing going on as the stories (and the aged scotches) kept coming. Eddie was really starting to relax now as he listened. After the current things were all covered, the "war stories" began!

They went back and forth and Eddie was enjoying each episode. Then Tim said: "O.K., Lil, here's the one to top them all. I know you've maybe heard about this one -- but I was there and saw it!"

"Now, this took place right here in Puyallup. It was the biggest tournament we ever had up 'til that time in the state of Washington. This was in the fall of 1963, and was held at the Great Lodge. There were teams there from all over the Northwest. This huge extravaganza was really something, but it turned out to be really unusual as well, because something strange occurred. On the second day of this week-end long event, a man walked in who, to this day, in this part of the country, is called the 'Mystery Shuffleboard Man.' What I'm going to tell you is true, and almost unbelievable. It begins with....."

Don't miss next month's episode to find out why this man was called the Mystery Shuffleboard Man and what he did that made this story unbelievable. You'll note on the enclosed "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." that we have a subscriber shuffleboard establishment in Puyallup -- the Nifty's Fifties' Pub and Grill. Is it possible that some of its shuffling customers remember this event? Or is it pure fiction? Only Ron knows for sure! Ask him in Vegas! And be sure to thank him for his monthly contributions to this newsletter. If you can't be in Vegas, you can write to Ron with your comments and/or story ideas: Balboa Ron Schweikert, 8301 W. Charleston Blvd, #1050, Las Vegas, NV 89117.

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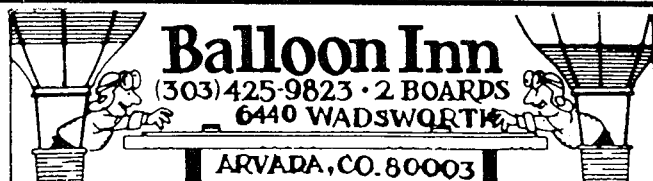
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The Board Talk

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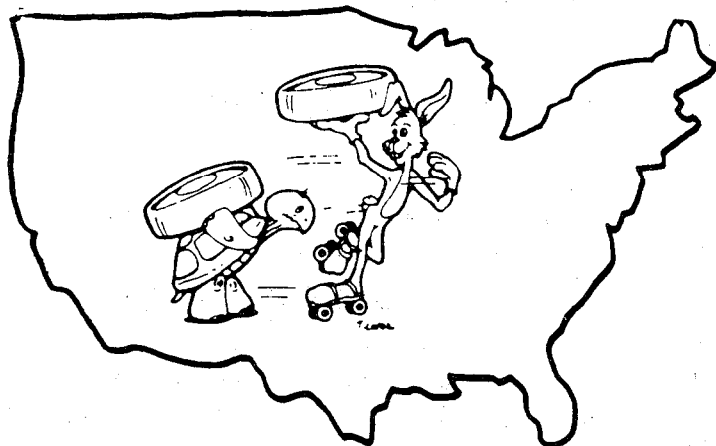
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